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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

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DATE: June 26, 1959

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SUBJECT: Berlin Contingency Planning

PARTICIPANTS: Jean-Claude Winckler, Counselor, French Embassy
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James H. McFarland, Jr., GPA

COPIES TO:

G - Mr. Murphy (1 cc)
S/S - Mr. Miller - 2
EUR - Mr. Kohler - 2 (1 cc)
GER - Mr. Hillenbrand (1 cc)
GPA - Mr. McKiernan - 3
WE - Mr. Brown
UNP - Mr. Sizoo

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Mr. Winckler called to offer some comments on the review of Berlin contingency planning which had been made by Mr. Logan of the British Embassy, Mr. Winckler, and Messrs. Vigderman, McKiernan, and McFarland of GER on June. 19. Mr. Winckler's comments were as follows:

Maintenance of Flight Safety (cf. enclosure to Bonn's despatch No. 1742, May 21): The French Government continues to believe that there should be no direct communication of flight information to GDR authorities.

Interference with Air Access: The French prefer to reserve a decision on paragraphs 12.b.(2) and (6) of the April 4 "Berlin Contingency Planning" paper until circumstances are clearer. There should be tripartite consultation eventually, but at the moment only general planning seems feasible.

United Nations Action: The French have reached no definite conclusions regarding UN action in the second, third, and fourth "contingencies" of the U. S. May 25 paper, but they are thinking of asking for some modifications of the paper.

Live Oak Command Structure: The French believe that the question of command in Berlin, even in connection with the probe, should be examined.

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Garrison Airlift: The German Foreign Office accepted the Allied plan in principle June 24, but said that the Finance Ministry still had questions about financial details. Tripartite technical discussions are taking place at Bonn regarding fighter escort and unified command.

Informing Non-NATO Countries: The French believe that the representatives of the Three Powers in non-NATO capitals should remain in close contact to assure that they are all informing the local government regarding the Berlin situation in the same sense.

Civil Defense: The French believe that this might be the right moment for the Three Powers to initiate civil defense measures, accumulation of stockpiles, and preparations for rationing in order to impress the Soviets with the seriousness of their intentions to maintain Berlin at all costs.

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